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 Current Handling: n/a
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 ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ADS-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01
 TRSE-00 DCT-02 MC-02 SY-05 SYE-00 /106 W
 058583 112316Z /61

O R 112114Z JAN 80
 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3775
 INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
 USMISSION GENEVA
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 USUN NEW YORK 1971
 MEMBASSY ROME 767
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S20000044)
 U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
 Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
 () Release () Excise () Deny
 Exemption(s): ~~B-1~~
 Declassify: () In Part () In Full
 () Classify as ~~S~~ () Extend as () Downgrade to
 Date ~~5/16/04~~ Declassify on ~~5/15/11~~ Reason ~~25X16~~

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 0330

USEEC ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 12065: XDS-4 1/11/00 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND, B.) OR-P
 TAGS : SHUM, ASEC, AR
 SUBJECT: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - JANUARY 5-11, 1980

REF: BUENOS AIRES 0102

1. ~~(S)~~ TERRORIST ARSENAL DISCOVERED----

A LARGE TERRORIST ARSENAL CONTAINING AUTOMATIC
 WEAPONS, HAND GRENADES, LARGE AMOUNTS OF AMMUNITION AND
 EXPLOSIVES WAS DISCOVERED ACCIDENTALLY DURING A BUENOS AIRES
 WAREHOUSE FIRE LATE DECEMBER. THE WEAPONS PROBABLY BELONGED

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TO THE MONTONEROS.

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NSC Declassification Review [EO 13526]
 DECLASSIFY IN PART
 by John Powers on 3/1/2018

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP
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 Declassify after
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 IPS by ~~AM~~ Date ~~5-13-16~~

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REVIEW
 AUTHORITY:
 Kathleen
 Allegrane,
 Senior
 Reviewer

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2. (C) GOA ALARM AT UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION-----
THE GOA IS HIGHLY CONCERNED THAT THE FEBRUARY 4 MEETING OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WILL CONDEMN IT FOR VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS. HEADING OFF SUCH A CONDEMNATION HAS BEEN AT THE CENTER OF ARGENTINE DIPLOMACY FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. IT HAS REINFORCED THE COUNTRY'S COURTSHIP OF THE SOVIET UNION AND MOSCOW'S THIRD WORLD FRIENDS. THESE TACTICS HAVE AFFECTED THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS TOWARDS EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN. IN ORDER TO HAVE THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM IN GENEVA FOR THE UNHRC MEETING, THE GOA IS SENDING ITS AMBASSADOR TO THE UN ENRIQUE ROSS TO ATTEND.

THE GOA IS CONCENTRATING ON INTERNATIONAL TACTICS RATHER THAN SEEKING TO ACCELERATE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENT AT HOME. THESE PRIORITIES SEEM TO BE A PRODUCT OF:

--A CONVICTION THAT ARGENTINA DID NOTHING TO EARN CENSORSHIP AND A GENUINE DESIRE NOT TO BE STAMPED AS A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATOR;

--A CONVICTION THAT NO MATTER WHAT THE GOA DOES AT HOME IT IS IN FOR A PERIOD OF INTERNATIONAL CENSORSHIP LED BY NATIONS AND GROUPS OUT TO GET THE GOA;

--A CONCERN FOR THE ATTITUDES OF HARD-LINE CRITICS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY. ON THE ONE HAND THESE GROUPS WILL LAMBASTE THE GOVERNMENT FOR ENCOURAGING INTERNATIONAL CRITICS, BY SEEMING TO RESPOND TO THEM (TIMERMAN; IAHRC; CAMPORA). ON THE OTHER HAND THEY MADE IT DIFFICULT TO IMPROVE

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THE SITUATION AT HOME.

3. (U) PRESUMPTIVE DEATH LAW--A CLARIFICATION----
CORRECTING WHAT WE REPORTED EARLIER (BUENOS AIRES 10365) WE HAVE LEARNED FROM A HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCE THAT THE PROSECUTOR'S ATTEMPT TO INVOKE THE CONTROVERSIAL PRESUMPTIVE DEATH LAW IN THE CASE OF FORMER AMBASSADOR HILDAGO SOLA WAS ON INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE BY THE PROSECUTOR. THE COURT OPINED THAT A PROSECUTOR COULD ONLY MAKE SUCH A REQUEST ON THE EXPRESS INSTRUCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE, INSTRUCTIONS THAT WERE ABSENT IN THIS CASE.

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THUS, AS FAR AS WE KNOW THERE HAS BEEN NO ATTEMPT
 BY THE GOVERNMENT TO USE THE NEW LAW. WE UNDER-
 STAND THAT TWENTY TO THIRTY FAMILIES HAVE BEGUN
 PROCEEDINGS TO USE THE LAW.

4. (C) PRISON CONDITIONS----

(25)(x1) SOME TIME [REDACTED] IN ARGENTINA
 HAVE DISCREETLY SUGGESTED TO US THAT THEY ARE
 NOT FULLY SATISFIED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF

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 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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USEEC

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(1) LAST YEAR'S PRESIDENTIAL DECREE ON PRISON
 (25)(x1) CONDITIONS. [REDACTED] HAS NOT INFORMED US OF ITS
 SPECIFIC CONCERNS, HOWEVER. NOW ANOTHER SOURCE
 (25)(x1) CONTACT WITH [REDACTED] HAS SHED SOME LIGHT ON
 (25)(x1) PROBLEM. REPORTEDLY, [REDACTED] UNDERSTANDS
 THAT PRISON DIRECTORS HAVE ON THEIR OWN DIVIDED

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PRISONERS INTO THREE CATEGORIES -- INCORRIGIBLES, INTERMEDIATES, AND THOSE WHO ARE "RECOVERABLE." THE LATTER CATEGORY GETS THE FULL CATEGORY OF RIGHTS LISTED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE; THE INTERMEDIARY CATEGORY SOME OF THE RIGHTS, AND THE INCORRIGIBLES

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THE FEWEST OF ALL: THIS RESTRICTION AFFECTS IN PARTICULAR, RECREATION AND EXERCISE. THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, THOUGH PRISON CONDITIONS HAVE IMPROVED AT RAWSON SINCE IT HOUSES ONLY "INCORRIGIBLES" RECREATION AND EXERCISE REMAIN VERY RESTRICTED. (25)(x1) IS TRYING TO GET THE GOA, THROUGH THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR HARGUINDEGUY, TO IMPLEMENT THE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE, BUT WERE SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL OF HIS INTENTIONS.]

5. (C) PAPAL NUNCIO'S WORDS ECHO----
 THE PAPAL NUNCIO PIO LAGHI'S VIRTUAL EQUATION OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND THE LEFTIST TERRORISTS IN PUBLIC REMARKS HAS OBVIOUSLY UPSET THE GOA. FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR MADE CLEAR THE GOA'S DISPLEASURE EVEN AS HE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE NUNCIO'S STATEMENTS LAST WEEK. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, THE NUNCIO HAS BEEN EVEN LESS DIPLOMATIC CALLING THE GOA "A BUNCH OF ASSASSINS" AND VOICING WONDER AT HOW THE ARGENTINES ARE ABLE TO TOLERATE THEIR GOVERNMENT. IT IS LIKELY THAT SUCH REPORTED REMARKS FIND THEIR WAY TO THE GOA, AS WELL. THE NUNCIO MAY BE EXERCISING HIS OWN PIQUE AT THE GOA SINCE THE VATICAN ITSELF HAS BEEN MORE CAREFUL--FOR EXAMPLE WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE POPE REFUSED A PRIVATE MEETING WITH A DELEGATION OF PLAZA DE MAYO MOTHERS WHO ARE PRESENTLY IN EUROPE, LIMITING HIMSELF TO A BRIEF PUBLIC HANDSHAKE AND EXCHANGE OF WORDS.
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